

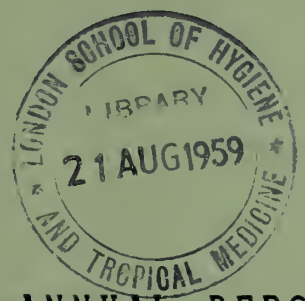
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# Borough of Dartford

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## ANNUAL REPORT

ON CERTAIN MATTERS CONCERNING

PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 6.



Checked by P.C.  
28.7.58  
MBJ

## SUMMARY

In 1956, as in previous years, there was little increase in the population.

Owing to limited scope for expansion the Borough built 219 houses outside its boundary.

The pattern of mortality by age, cause and social class was that to be expected in an urban area of south east England well provided with social services.

• Dysentery and food "poisoning" made noteworthy appearances.

The rates of acceptances for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation diphtheria remained good in comparison with other areas. Vaccination against poliomyelitis was begun.

There was no revaccination of school children against smallpox.

The number of unfit houses demolished was 24.

The number of inspections of food preparation premises was 2300.

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# BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

## Annual Report on Certain Matters Concerning Public Health for the Year 1956

APRIL, 1958

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to discuss the information available in my annual attempt to review a year's health of the people of Dartford. The year under review is 1956.

POPULATION. The figures continue to illustrate the restriction on expansion due to the limited capacity of the Borough. A portion of the population is overflowing the Borough boundaries and the fact that young persons predominate in this portion is illustrated by the recent low figures for the natural increase in the population.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Population	39,930	40,580	40,440	40,050	40,020	40,430	40,410	40,490	40,850
Increase or decrease from previous year	+1,910	+650	-140	-390	-30	+410	-20	+80	+360
Natural increase (excess of births over deaths)	376	287	204	190	112	136	86	22	68
Immigration or Emigration	+1,534	+363	-344	-580	-142	+274	-106	+58	+292
Houses built in Borough by Council and Pri- vate Enterprise	357	81	161	143	293	338	247	315	94
Houses built out- side Borough by Council	-	-	69	31	-	-	35	67	219

BIRTHS. Births were up by 51 on the previous year and the adjusted birth rate thereby increasing to 15.0. The trend since 1949 has been as follows:-

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Births	656	594	562	533	591	579	581	632
Birth rate, Dartford	16.2	14.0	13.4	12.8	14.0	13.7	13.7	15.0
Birth rate, England and Wales	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.6

As mentioned above, the fact that in the years 1954, 1955 and 1956 houses have been built by the Borough outside its boundary means that a sizeable slice of fertility has been presented to the neighbouring District, and that reproduction has been greater than our birth rate implies.

Births by Social Class 1956. The Registrar General has again kindly classified for us the 632 births of 1956:

Social Class	Legitimate births by social class of father	Illegitimate births by social class of mother	Total	Percentage	
				1956	1955
I	41	1	42	7%	4%
II	101	1	102	16%	11%
III	359	11	370	58%	63%
IV	62	7	69	11%	12%
V	45	3	48	8%	10%
	608	23	631	100%	100%
Not stated	-	1	1		
	608	24	632		

Place of birth. 530 of the above 632 births took place in hospital, i.e. 84% compared with 83% in 1955. In Dartford Rural District, 72% took place in hospital.

DEATHS. Prior to 1953 the only deaths in Bexley Hospital allotted to Dartford were those whose home addresses were either in Dartford or were unknown. In 1952 there were 17 so allotted. For the year 1953 a change in practice was begun and all deaths of patients there were attributed to Dartford, the allocations increasing from 17 in 1952 to 128, 141, 158 and 176 in 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956 respectively. This large increase, although now allowed for in the comparability factor, will have to be separated from our total if we are to follow the trend of deaths in the town population. The latter will be taken as the total deaths less those of the mental hospitals plus 17:

	Quarters				Year
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Deaths - Dartford Borough 1956	172	138	119	134	563
Less Mental Hospital deaths	55	47	30	44	176
. . Town deaths	117	91	89	90	387
Add	5	4	4	4	17
Dartford deaths by pre-1953 methods	122	95	93	94	404

Hence the annual and quarterly deaths and death rates as calculated by the pre-1953



method, including adjustment of death rates by comparability factor (except in 1956 when it was radically lowered): are:-

#### Annual Deaths:

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Deaths	372	421	455	368	417	404
Death rate - Dartford Town	8.5	10.7	11.3	8.9	10.1	9.9
Death rate - England and Wales	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7

#### Quarterly Deaths:-

##### Dartford Town -

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Year
1950	122	81	89	98	390
1951	134	80	64	94	372
1952	115	88	88	130	421
1953	173	92	86	104	455
1954	100	87	72	109	368
1955	132	94	88	103	417
1956	122	95	93	94	404

#### Quarterly Death Rates:-

##### Dartford Town -

1950	12.3	8.2	9.0	9.0	9.9
1951	13.6	8.2	6.5	9.6	9.5
1952	11.7	9.0	9.0	13.2	10.7
1953	17.1	9.1	8.5	10.3	11.3
1954	9.7	8.4	6.9	10.6	8.9
1955	12.8	9.1	8.5	10.0	10.1
1956	12.0	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.9

#### England and Wales -

1950	14.0	11.1	9.3	12.3	11.6
1951	19.1	11.1	9.1	11.0	12.5
1952	13.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	11.3
1953	15.8	10.5	8.9	10.7	11.4
1954	14.0	10.6	9.3	11.4	11.3
1955	15.4	11.2	9.1	11.1	11.7
1956	15.3	10.8	9.3	11.3	11.7

#### Town Deaths by Social Class

	Males	Females	Total	% 1956	% 1955
Class I	6	2	8	2	3
Class II	35	33	68	18	14
Class III	94	92	186	50	51
Class IV	25	27	52	14	18
Class V	34	29	63	16	14
Unclassified	194	183	377	100	100
	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	196	191	387	100	100

Excluding Bexley Mental Hospital the deaths in hospital and at home were:-

	All ages		75 and over	
	Hospital	Home	Hospital	Home
1951	174	199	51	87
1952	220	201	72	92
1953	227	211	80	123
1954	210	141 *	88	59 *
1955	222	178 #	78	82 #
1956	217	170 †	80	58 †

\* Including 3 elsewhere

# Including 2 in residential accommodation and one found drowned

† Including 3 in residential accommodation and 5 elsewhere

Excluding mental hospitals the percentages dying at hospital and home at all ages in 1956 were:

	Hospital	Home
Dartford Borough	56%	44%
Dartford Rural District	43%	57%

By former methods of compilation our town deaths have been:-

	All Ages	Aged 75+
1953 (Influenza A)	455	203
1954	368	147
1955 (Influenza B)	417	157
1956	403	138

Causes of Death. The causes of death in the town may be summarised:-

	1954	1955	1956	1956 Eng. and Wales
All causes of death	351 (100%)	400 (100%)	387 (100%)	100%
Main causes of death	283 (81%)	329 (82%)	304 (78%)	81%
Other causes of death	68 (19%)	71 (18%)	83 (22%)	19%
(440-468 diseases of circulatory system)	135 (38%)	153 (38%)	134 (34%)	37%
(140-205 cancer including Hodgkins disease, Leukaemia and aleukaemia)	74 (21%)	82 (20%)	77 (20%)	18%
(330-334 Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system)	44 (13%)	43 (11%)	48 (12%)	14%
(470-527 Diseases of respiratory system)	30 (9%)	51 (13%)	45 (12%)	12%

Cancer of the Lung. This caused 12 town deaths in 1956, there were 15 in 1955. The rates were 0.31 per 1000 population for Dartford Town; 0.39 for the six millions living in the smaller towns of England and Wales; 0.47 for the twenty three millions in the greater towns of England and Wales; 0.41 in the whole of England and Wales and 0.58 in London.

Coronary Disease. This caused 60 town deaths in 1956 compared with 71 in 1955. The rate was 1.56 compared with 1.67 for England and Wales and 1.70 for London.

Disease of the Respiratory System.

	Deaths in Year	
	Dartford Town	Bexley Mental Hospital
1953	83	29
1954	30	28
1955	51	36
1956	45	59

Town Deaths in first quarter

	Respiratory Disease	All causes (compiled by pre-1953 methods)
1950	14	122
1951 Influenza A	30	134
1952	21	115
1953 Influenza A	64	173
1954	13	100
1955 Influenze B	19	132
1956	20	122



DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE. Road Accidents (4). A motor cyclist aged 23, a pedal cyclist aged 43 and two pedestrians aged 63 and 82 died as a result of collision with motor vehicles.

Other Accidents (6). Two accidents to children caused death: an inhaled peanut in a child aged 1 and a fall into the creek in a child aged 8. Three deaths occurred at work, two due to explosions, one due to a fall. The sixth was an incident in malignant disease.

Suicide (8). The youngest was 33 and the eldest 61.

Deaths Relating to Welfare of Mothers and Infants. There were no deaths from pregnancy or childbirth. Stillbirths numbered 8 compared with 12 in 1955. The stillbirth rate was 12.6 compared with 22.9 for England and Wales and 20.2 for London.

Deaths under four weeks of age numbered 10 compared with 8 in 1955. Six were due to prematurity and three to congenital malformation. Deaths between the ages of four weeks and one year numbered 4, none of which was due to an infectious condition. 2 deaths were due to congenital malformation.

Deaths of those aged 75 years and over. The lungs of those aged 75 years and over are worth watching and the following table concludes with a comparison of the aged respiratory mortality in the town with that in the sheltered environment of Bexley Mental Hospital:-

#### Town Deaths aged 75 years and over

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1956	1955	1954
	Quarters						
All Causes	52	28	24	34	138 (100%)	157 (100%)	147 (100%)
Main causes	46	27	21	31	125 (91%)	142 (90%)	130 (88%)
Other causes	6	1	3	3	13 (9%)	15 (10%)	17 (12%)
(440-468) Diseases of circulatory system	26	13	7	15	61 (44%)	67 (43%)	68 (46%)
(140-205) Cancer	6	9	2	7	24 (17%)	18 (11%)	18 (12%)
(330-334) Vascular lesions of C.N.S.	6	3	8	6	23 (17%)	25 (16%)	27 (18%)
(470-527) Diseases of respiratory system	8	2	4	3	17 (12%)	32 (20%)	17 (12%)

#### Town

Aged respiratory mortality 1953 (influenza A)	26%
Aged respiratory mortality 1954	12%
Aged respiratory mortality 1955 (influenza B)	20%
Aged respiratory mortality 1956	12%

#### Bexley Mental Hospital

Aged respiratory mortality 1953 (influenza A)	26%
Aged respiratory mortality 1954	16%
Aged respiratory mortality 1955 (influenza B)	25%
Aged respiratory mortality 1956	32%

MEASLES. Our two yearly measles cycle was about 3 months behind schedule in 1954-55 and so it was again in 1956-57:

	November	December	January	February	March	April
1949-50	-	-	-	-	-	1
1950-51	138	288	161	58	44	20
1951-52	-	-	-	-	-	-
1952-53	154	238	255	77	88	17
1953-54	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954-55	-	-	6	43	284	473
1955-56	-	-	-	-	-	1
1956-57	-	-	12	25	107	303

In the middle of 1956 there was a curious out-of-season appearance of measles starting in Swanley in which the Rural District received 120 notifications and the Borough 44 notifications. This incident may have been due to the immigration into the district of a new child population from areas attuned to another measles rhythm; the first case was a contact of a case in Hertfordshire.

**POLIOMYELITIS.** Of the two paralytic cases one unfortunately died. This latter case occurred in January and may be regarded as belonging to the previous season. Before the 1956 season began 239 children in Dartford Borough had received at least one injection against polio.

**DYSENTERY.** See addendum to this preface.

**FOOD POISONING.** In April an outbreak occurred associated with the canteen of a generating station, many of whose employees live in the Borough although the station is just over the boundary. 75 persons were affected, 20 of whom were notified in the Borough and 8 were admitted to hospital. As most cases recovered within 24 hours they were unnotified as medical advice was not called for. No left over food from the suspected meal was available for examination and stool specimens from the patients revealed nothing significant. The incubation period appeared to be only a few hours and the events suggested that staphylococcal toxin was the cause of the outbreak.

In December there was an outbreak in the aged men's ward at one of the hospitals in which 20 were notified as suffering from food poisoning. One of the patients, who was also suffering from severe organic disease, died. The inquiries were carried out by the hospital but the cause remained unknown.

The following family outbreaks or sporadic cases occurred:-

A.A., an infant, was admitted to hospital in April where he was found to have an *S. typhimurium* infection. The remaining household of five were sampled. The mother and the brother aged 2 were found to be infected with the same organism and were treated at home. All three infected persons gave negative stool specimens after treatment. In June the family was again sampled as a sister was excluded from school with dysentery symptoms, A.A. was again found infected with *S. typhimurium*.

N.P. and A.P. both children with fever and diarrhoea. On sampling the household of four A.P. and his father were found infected with *S. typhimurium*. Treatment cleared the father's infection but not the child's. The family chose to cancel their holiday at a dairy farm in view of the child not being free of infection though otherwise cured.

Family B. This family of five were visited by a cousin in September who incurred enteritis symptoms while here and on return to his home town was found to be infected with *S. typhimurium*. The family B. were then sampled and all were found infected with that organism. A fortnight later after treatment three were still infected. Three weeks later two, i.e. the parents, remained infected. Eight months later the mother was due to enter hospital for confinement so she was sampled again and this time with negative results.

C. Housewife. Incurred diarrhoea with passage of blood. *S. enteritidis* jena identified in stools. Infection still present after treatment. The other two members of household were sampled with negative results.

Ca. Infant. Fever and diarrhoea. *S. typhimurium* on first sampling and also after treatment but finally stools gave negative results. Six other members of household remained free of infection

L. Housewife. Vomitting and diarrhoea. S. typhimurium on sampling - negative after treatment. The other member of household not infected.

P.D. Boy. Diarrhoea. S. typhimurium present after treatment. Other members of household not sampled.

G.H. A visitor to Dartford was admitted to hospital with S. typhimurium infection probably obtained elsewhere.

G. A boy admitted to hospital and found to have S. typhimurium infection. Parents sampled with negative results.

On other separate occasions following notification of suspected food poisoning seven patients and their households were sampled but with negative results.

PSITTACOSIS. A case occurred at the mental hospital but was due to a family infection at home. Pigeons and budgerigars were kept in the home but the virus was not found in their droppings.

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. The numbers of new cases notified in recent years have been as follows:-

				Town	Bexley Mental Hospital
1953	..	..	..	28	16
1954	..	..	..	44	15
1955	..	..	..	37	7
1956	..	..	..	21	22

The Mass X-ray service visited Bexley Mental Hospital in 1956 and this no doubt accounts for the increase in notifications.

Number on register December 31st, 1951	471
Number on register December 31st, 1952	532
Number on register December 31st, 1953	553
Number on register December 31st, 1954	599
Number on register December 31st, 1955	541
Number on register December 31st, 1956	566

The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis were:-

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Town .. .. .	6	6	5	1
Bexley Mental Hospital ..	6	5	2	1

There were also 2 deaths classified to causes other than tuberculosis which mentioned tuberculosis as a contributory cause.

Re-housing. During 1956 the following recommendations were made regarding housing applicants who gave tuberculosis as a reason for priority:

Points .. .. .	0	1 to 4	5 to 8
No. of recommendations ..	4	12	2

The following applicants awarded priority for tuberculosis in any year were rehoused by the Council in 1956:-

Points .. .. .	1 to 4	5 to 8
No. rehoused .. .. .	7	2

When a tuberculosis person moves house we try to get the vacated house disinfected before the incoming family go in. The number of houses disinfected in this way in 1956 was 18.



NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. Of the two cases notified one involved the cervical glands and the other the spine.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Comparison with other areas is provided by the following:-

	Dartford Rural Dist.	Dartford Borough	Kent A. C.	England and Wales
Percentage of those born in 1955 immunised in 1955 or 1956 .. .. .	65%	64%	59%	-
Percentage of births of previous year of those immunised at age of under 1 year .. .. .	44%	46%	-	-
Percentage of children under 15 years immunised in the 5 years ending 31.12.1956.	48%	51%	53%	49%

1956 was the ninth year in succession in which no diphtheria occurred in Dartford Borough.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. Comparison with other areas is provided by the following figures:-

	Dartford Rural Dist.	Dartford Borough	Kent A. C.	England and Wales
Percentage of those born in 1955 vaccinated in 1955 or 1956 .. .. .	61% *	57%	64%	-
Percentage of births of those vaccinated in 1956 at age under 1 year.	53% *	60%	63%	38%

\* the large difference in percentage is due to the large increase in births in 1956.

Re-vaccination. The number of children due each year for re-vaccination in school life (assuming only one re-vaccination during that period) is roughly the number of infant vaccinations done five years previously. The percentage of those re-vaccinated is shown by the following calculations:

	Dartford Rural Dist.	Dartford Borough	Kent A. C.	England and Wales
Infant vaccinations done in 1951	310	395	13,430	203,702
Children aged 5-14 re- vaccinated.	15	8	974	10,240
Percentage of possible number of those re-vaccinated.	5%	2%	7%	5%

These percentages contain approximations and errors which when corrected would result in even lower percentages. Thus, as in former years, there was almost no re-vaccination of school children although the Ministry regard this as a necessary routine on entering and again on leaving school.

Within the boundaries of this Borough is a smallpox hospital (170 beds, 50 of which are staffed) to receive cases from this part of England at short notice. The unsatisfactory state of immunity in our population may cause needless risk when smallpox is cared for in this hospital thus re-vaccination of school children within two or three years of first entering school has additional importance here on account of this factor.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME. Our figures for home accidents continue to be low compared with elsewhere. The Dartford Hospital Management Committee have kindly provided me with details of those who have received in-patient treatment arising out of accidents in the home in 1956, these are:-

Age	Falls	Burns and scalds	Poisoning	Other	Total
0 - 4	6	8	1	1	16
5 - 64	8	1	1	3	13
65+	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>
	20	9	2	4	35

The length of stay in hospital was:

Under 1 week	-	9
1 to under 4 weeks	-	14
4 weeks to under 13 weeks	-	10
13 weeks to under 26 weeks	-	-
26 weeks to under 29 weeks	-	<u>1</u>
		34
Transferred to East Grinstead	-	1

There was one death - the child mentioned above who inhaled a peanut.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I wish to thank the chairman and members of the public health committee for their interest, the staff of this department for their willing co-operation and a number of colleagues for providing information for this report.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN H. HUDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S O N N E   D Y S E N T E R Y

Dartford Borough and Rural District, 1956.

Dysentery in England and Wales in 1956 had an all time record incidence. The disease was most prevalent in the first and second quarters and the main incidence came to an end in July, as is shown in the graph (B.M.J. 19.1.1957). The disease was mild and 98.4% of the organisms isolated belonged to the mild sh. sonnei type (An. Rep. C.M.O. Min. of Health, 1956).

Dartford had its share of this dysentery; the diarrhoea was accompanied by vomiting in about one-third of the cases and a few had blood in their motions. As is shown in table 1. the main known incidence here, which also came to an end in July, was in the Borough and the adjacent urban areas of the Rural District, where the cases notified per 100,000 population by doctors alone was about 230 compared with 115 in the London and South Eastern Region; this difference however, may have been largely due to re-emphasis on the need for notification. Excluding Darenth Park, 213 cases were notified by doctors and teachers, the numbers in age groups being 0-4, 33; 5-14, 151; 15+, 29.

Events of the Outbreak.

In January at Darenth Park Mental Deficiency Hospital 8 cases were notified, the infection being already confirmed as sonne dysentery. The next appearance was in February and March at the Brent County Primary School when we received from family doctors 19 notifications, mostly concerning school children, and these with their household contacts were shown by us to be infected with sh. sonnei. In a circular sent to the schools it was stated that dysentery was about, the need for hand cleanliness was emphasised and a request was made for the Public Health Office to be told when diarrhoea, etc. appeared amongst any of the children.

There was a lull in the disease during the Easter holidays but at the end of May cases began to appear amongst the children of Temple Hill County Primary School. We then planned not only to investigate bacteriologically cases and their household contacts as they occurred, but also to follow them up and exclude from school all children carrying the infection. The family doctors were kept informed of the bacteriological results obtained from their patients and we were informed by the doctors when courses of treatment had been completed. When one course failed to clear up the infection in the patient or his contacts, exclusion from school was continued and further treatment asked for. In several cases two or three courses were given but repeated treatment did not always clear up the infection and the exclusion of the obstinate infections from school eventually ceased. However, no further cases seemed to result from these symptomless excreters, perhaps it was that the summer holidays gave time for a spontaneous end to infection.

The Affected Schools.

The Brent School was built in 1879. The W.C.'s are outside and the children wash their hands in the main building in the cloakroom. The children there come from homes 50% of which are modern council houses, 25% modern private houses and 25% private houses built about 1890 without bathrooms.



Temple Hill County Primary School was opened in 1953 and its W.C.'s are inside the building and part of a modern suite which includes wash basins. The children come from a modern post-war housing estate which the school was built to serve.

At the end of June the facilities for hand cleanliness at Temple Hill School were augmented by providing in every class-room a bowl of disinfectant (benzalkonium chloride) and each child was required to immerse his hands therein after visiting the lavatory.

#### The Results of the Survey.

The different patterns of sampling the households, e.g., whether contacts or patients were sampled during or after treatment of the patients, makes it impossible to devise a statement of results which is both compact and meticulous. The total number of persons in the households of the patients, including the latter, was 890, and of these, including the patients, 380 submitted stool specimens during treatment of the patient; 113 persons were positive for sh. sonnei, 8 were positive for salmonella organisms and 259 were negative.

After May most householders revealed by the above sampling to be infected were re-sampled after the infected persons had completed an initial course of treatment. 174 persons were thus further sampled, 52 were positive (46 for sh. sonnei, 6 for salmonella) and 122 were negative.

From the households of the 52 persons found still infected, only 19 submitted to further courses of treatment and with the exception of 3 infected with salmonella, these cleared up. There were thus at least 33 persons known to be symptomless excreters when they were lost sight of and in addition there were the cases found infected before May who were not sampled after treatment.

All the dysentery organisms were shigella sonnei except one sample which gave "sh. smitzi belonging to Providence group". All the salmonella organisms were S. typhimurium except one which was S. enteritidis jena.

#### Infectivity.

The knowledge that certain households were infected produced a few problems. Two food handlers and two hospital attendants who were excreting sh. sonnei, were kept off that work until stools gave negative cultures. Two food handlers from affected households who themselves had negative stool samples were allowed to continue work. An expectant mother who was booked for hospital was delivered at home because her children had not cleared their infection when we last knew of them. A family containing two symptomless excreters of s. typhimurium cancelled their holiday on a dairy farm.

Had it not been for this survey the above infections would have been unknown and the infected persons would not have been subjected to these restrictions.

In dealing with problems like these associated with bowel infections, it is helpful to have an idea of the infectivity of the disease in order that one can gauge the risks involved. The families of infected persons sampled in this survey gave an opportunity to estimate this infectivity as each such household had in it a person who had incurred the symptoms of bowel infection and the presence of the organism had been shown. Contact inside the family is close and frequent and provides a great opportunity for the spread of infection. Unfortunately in this survey it was rarely possible to sample all members of the household; breadwinners often abstained from providing their specimens, presumably because of the early morning rush. Nevertheless where any positive sample had been obtained, samples from other persons in the family gave some evidence on how much the infection had spread.

From Table II it will be seen that 55 households containing at least one infected person were each surveyed by two or more samples. In 18 households no evidence of spread appeared, but in 37 households spread to at least one other person was revealed. In the salmonella infections revealed in this survey, 2 or more positive samples were obtained in only 2 households, 2 out of a group of 4 samples and 3 out of a group of 6.

### Impressions.

1. The high level of recorded incidents was to some extent due to the doctors and teachers keeping us meticulously notified, which augmented the figures that would have otherwise been obtained.
2. About 30% of patients and household contacts were positive to sh. sonnei and about 2% were positive for salmonella organisms. Many of these infections would not have been known had there not been a special bacteriological inquiry.
3. Treatment was not always effective in clearing the infection though this may have been due to re-infection from other members of the family.
4. Where one infection occurs in a household there is something like a 70% chance that some other member of the household is also infected although they may be without symptoms. The chances of all being infected is something like 20%.
5. The essence of control in day schools is the exclusion of children while they have symptoms of the disease and emphasis on hand cleanliness. Perhaps no more than this is justified. This is in harmony with what has been expressed by other public health workers.

### Acknowledgements.

With a few exceptions all the families asked to provide specimens responded well to the request. The visiting of the households and collection of some 1,600 specimens involved the Council's public health inspectors in an exacting task, and in the Borough the effectiveness of this survey reflected the attention paid by the Council's chief public health inspector. The survey would not have been possible without the ready co-operation of the family doctors and the teachers. The bacteriology was carried out by the pathological laboratories of the Dartford Group of Hospitals and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

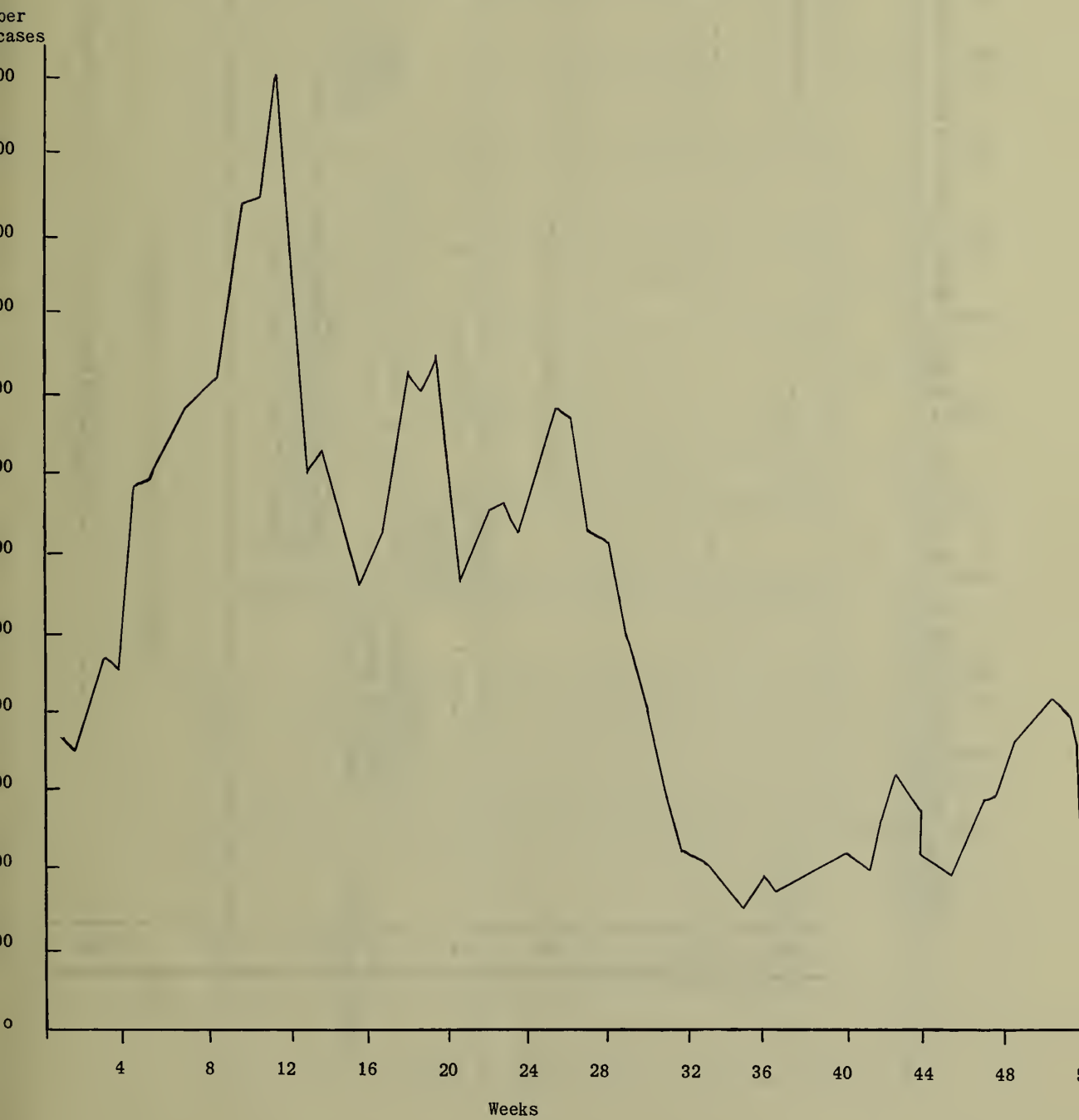
### Glossary

- Sh.* - abbreviation for shigella, the name for the dysentery group of bowel organisms.
- S.* - abbreviation for salmonella, the name for the group of bowel organisms associated with food-borne disease.

J. H. H.

# DYSENTERY - ENGLAND AND WALES 1956

from British Medical Journal



# DYSENTERY 1956

## Dartford Borough and Rural District

Onset Week ending	Brent School area notified by		Temple Hill school area notified by		Elsewhere notified by		TOTAL
	Drs.	Tchrs.	Drs.	Tchrs.	Drs.	Tchrs.	
Jan 7	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
14	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
21	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	2	-	-	-	1	-	3
18	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
25	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
Mar 3	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
10	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
17	2	2	-	-	2	2	8
24	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
31	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Apr 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
May 5	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
12	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
19	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
26	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
June 2	-	-	1	1	3	-	5
9	1	-	1	3	1	-	6
16	-	-	5	1	3	-	9
23	1	-	18	23	1	-	43
30	1	-	11	18	3	-	33
July 7	-	-	5	15	4	-	24
14	-	-	4	4	4	-	12
21	-	-	6	4	4	-	14
28	-	-	3	-	5	-	8
Aug 4	1	-	3	-	4	-	8
11	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
18	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sept 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oct 6	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
13	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
20	-	-	-	2	1	2	5
27	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nov 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dec 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	20	4	62	74	52	9	221

Table II

## SPREAD OF DYSENTERY IN HOUSEHOLDS

Number in Household Sampled	Number of Infected Households in which 2 or more persons were sampled.	Number of infected households in which two or more persons were sampled, with the following number of persons found infected.					Households showing spread	Households showing evidence of complete spread
		One (i.e. No evidence of spread)	Two	Three	Four	Five		
2	9	4	5	-	-	-	5	5
3	14	4	7	3	-	-	10	3
4	17	6	7	2	2	-	11	2
5	10	2	2	4	1	1	8	1
6	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	3	-	1	-	-	2	3	-
	55	18	22	9	3	3	37	11



## Social and Environmental Conditions

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres) .. .. .	4,234
Population (Register-General's estimated mid-year home population)	
1956 .. .. .	40,850
Population (Census 1931) .. .. .	28,928
Population (Census 1951) .. .. .	40,544
Number of inhabited dwellings (31.3.57, according to Rate Books) ..	12,159
Rateable value (Year ended 31.3.57) (revaluation) .. .. .	£626,533
Sum represented by ld. rate .. .. .	£2,518

The 1956 comparability factor for births, governed by the proportion of women aged 18 to 44 years is 0.96. The factor for deaths, governed by the proportion of all age groups has been reduced from 0.98 in 1955 to 0.73 in 1956 and thus it seems that the factor now allows for the fact that all deaths occurring at Bexley Mental Hospital were in 1956 allotted to Dartford Borough.

The crude birth or death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor is said to make it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with any other local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

No great change has occurred in the social conditions since an attempt was made to describe them in the report for 1950. The following figures may act as indicators for 1956:-

## Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C.

Neglect .. .. .	14
Ill treatment .. .. .	10
Children affected .. .. .	45
Prosecution for neglect .. .. .	-

Unemployed on December 31st, 1956 (Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural) .. .. .	
	Men 105
	Women 47

Illegitimate birth rate 1956, Dartford Borough 38 per 1,000 live births.  
 Illegitimate birth rate 1956, England and Wales 46 per 1,000 live births

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Water - The dwellings in the Borough, with one exception, are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board from wells in the chalk. In regard to the Kent District Wells of the Board, almost 100% of the many hundreds of samples taken in 1956 showed no type I Bact. coli in 100 ml. In regard to the wells supplying Dartford Borough 25 of 1775 samples taken in 1956 showed type I Bact. coli in 100 ml. of raw water with none of 1505 samples showing this in the samples of water after chlorination. The details are shown in the accompanying table kindly supplied by the Director of Water Examination. The albuminoid nitrogen readings of the 31 samples submitted to chemical examination was around 0.025 p.p.m.



RESULTS OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WELL WATERS SUPPLYING DARTFORD BOROUGH  
AND DARTFORD RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1956

Well	Number of samples	BEFORE CHLORINATION		Number of samples	AFTER CHLORINATION (WATER PASSING INTO SUPPLY)	
		Percentage samples negative coliform bacteria in 100 ml.	Percentage samples negative Bact.coli in 100 ml.		Percentage samples negative coliform bacteria in 100 ml.	Percentage samples negative Bact.coli in 100 ml.
Darenth Well	240	97.9	99.6)	255	100.0	100.0
Darenth Bore Hole	181	85.6	99.5)			
Dartford Well	240	100.0	100.0	244	97.1	100.0
Eynsford Well	251	98.0	100.0	256	100.0	100.0
Eynsford Bore Hole	27	100.0	100.0	27	96.3	100.0
Green Street Green Well	233	95.3	98.3	238	100.0	100.0
Horton Kirby Well	239	96.7	98.3	243	100.0	100.0
Southfleet Well	238	50.0	99.2	242	98.4	100.0
Wilmington Well 1	205	67.8	94.6)			
Wilmington Well 2	161	73.9	98.8)	244	99.6	100.0

The exception to the universal use of Metropolitan Water Board for supplies to dwellings was a farmhouse supplied by its own well. Three bacteriological samples were taken and each showed no type I Bact. coli in 100 ml. One chemical sample was taken and showed no albuminoid nitrogen.

In addition to the above there are communities receiving other supplies and these are as follows:-

- (a) Two hospitals which receive supplies from their own wells. The well supply of each hospital was sampled once bacteriologically. Each sample showed no type I Bact. coli in 100 ml.
- (b) Two paper mills each supplied by their own wells. One bacteriological and one chemical sample taken from the supply of one mill showed no type I Bact. coli in 100 ml. and no albuminoid nitrogen. From the supply to the other mill 3 bacteriological samples each showed no type I Bact. coli in 100 ml. One chemical sample showed 0.02 p.p.m. albuminoid nitrogen.
- (c) An engineering works supplied by three wells. One bacteriological sample taken from each showed no type I Bact. coli in 100 ml.
- (d) A chemical works with one well used for drinking purposes. One bacteriological sample showed no type I Bact. coli in 100 ml.

Housing - An account of the action taken to obtain the repair, improvement or demolition of existing dwellings will be found in the report of the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following dwellings have been completed in the last six years:-

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
By Corporation	201	155	250	289	199	184	227
By Private Enterprise	29	19	43	49	83	200	86
	<u>230</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>293</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>282</u>	<u>384</u>	<u>313</u>

No. of improvement grants made in 1956 .. .. . 4

The dwellings let by the Corporation in 1956 were as follows:-

Two bedroom houses	..	..	..	70
Three bedroom houses	..	..	..	79
Four bedroom houses	..	..	..	14
One bedroom flats	..	..	..	42
Two bedroom flats	..	..	..	10
Three bedroom flats	..	..	..	8
Maisonettes	..	..	..	<u>4</u>

227

Number of applicants on waiting list at the end of December, 1955 - 1153

Number of applicants on waiting list at the end of December, 1956 - 1319

Atmospheric Pollution - See reports of Thames-Side Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution.

Milk - All the milk sold in the area in 1956 was designated. For details of sampling see the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Food	)	
Factories	)	
Nuisances	)	See report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.
Vermin	)	

## Tables

## (i) VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956

## LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	306	302	608
Illegitimate .. .. .	15	9	24
	<u>321</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>632</u>
Crude Live birth rate per 1,000 home population .. .. .			15.6
Birth Rate adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor .. .. .			15.0
Crude birth rate, England and Wales .. .. .			15.6

## STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	4	4	8
Illegitimate .. .. .	-	-	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .			12.6
Still birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .			22.9

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Males	Females	Total
Dartford Town .. .. .	196	190	386
Bexley Mental Hospital .. .. .	71	105	176
Dartford Borough .. .. .	<u>267</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>562</u>
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population			
Dartford Town - population 38,580 .. .. .			10.0
Bexley Mental Hospital - population 2,270 .. .. .			77.5 *
Dartford Borough - population 40,850 .. .. .			13.8
Death rate, Dartford Borough - adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor .. .. .			10.1
Death rate, England and Wales .. .. .			11.7

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	0
Death rate per 1,000 live and still births - Dartford Borough .. .. .	0.0
Death rate per 1,000 live and still births - England and Wales .. .. .	0.56

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Age	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks - legitimate .. .. .	3	4	7
Under 4 weeks - illegitimate .. .. .	1	2	3
4 weeks to 1 year - legitimate .. .. .	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	5	9	14

## DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:

Dartford Borough .. .. .	22.1
Dartford Rural District .. .. .	15.6
England and Wales .. .. .	23.7
London and South-east Region .. .. .	20.4
Sweden .. .. .	17.0

## DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE:

Dartford Borough .. .. .	15.8
Dartford Rural District .. .. .	14.4
England and Wales .. .. .	16.8

\* For age structure see Table iv

## (ii) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX

## Registrar General's Return

	Male	Female	Persons	
All causes .. .. .	264	299	563	
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	2	1	3	
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	-	-	-	
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	1	2	
Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough .. .. .	-	-	-	
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-	1	1	
Measles .. .. .	-	-	-	
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	-	-	-	
 Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	5	4	9	88
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	13	1	14	
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	-	7	7	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	-	6	6	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	26	22	48	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	2	2	4	
 Diabetes .. .. .	-	-	-	
 Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	22	42	64	
 Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	48	36	84	213
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	4	7	11	
Other heart disease .. .. .	35	40	75	
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	15	28	43	
 Influenza .. .. .	-	-	-	101
Pneumonia .. .. .	26	36	62	
Bronchitis .. .. .	17	12	29	
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	8	2	10	
 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	5	3	8	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	1	3	4	
Nephritis, nephrosis .. .. .	2	-	2	
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	2	-	2	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	-	-	-	
Congenital malformations .. .. .	1	5	6	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	18	31	49	
Motor Vehicle accidents .. .. .	3	1	4	
All other accidents .. .. .	4	3	7	
Suicide .. .. .	4	5	9	
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	-	-	-	



## (iii) DARTFORD TOWN - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE

## Compiled Locally

	Total	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75+
All Causes .. .. .	387	9	4	3	2	5	4	7	14	43	58	100	138
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Measles .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	7	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	43	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	6	10	5	18
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Diabetes .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5	16	23
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	11	19	22
Hypertension with heart disease ..	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Other heart disease .. .. .	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	10	28
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	8	8
Influenza .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia .. .. .	19	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	8
Bronchitis .. .. .	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	5	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Nephritis, nephrosis .. .. .	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations .. .. .	6	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	44	7	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	9	1	11	9
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
All other accidents .. .. .	6	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Suicide .. .. .	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	0	0
Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(iv) BEXLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING  
TO AGE

Compiled Locally

	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75+
All Causes .. .. .	176	2	1	1	2	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	89
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	2								1				1
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .													
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1											1	
Diphtheria .. .. .													
Whooping Cough .. .. .													
Meningococcal Infections .. .. .													
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .													
Measles .. .. .													
Other infective and parasitic diseases													
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	2										1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	1										1		
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	1											1	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	2										1	1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3												3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .													
Diabetes .. .. .	1											1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	14										3	4	7
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	24							1		4		8	11
Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	5											3	2
Other heart disease .. .. .	34								1		4	3	26
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	17								1	1	3	5	7
Influenza .. .. .													
Pneumonia .. .. .	45									1	9	12	23
Bronchitis .. .. .	10											5	5
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	4											3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	3											3	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..													
Nephritis, nephrosis .. .. .													
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1												1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..													
Congenital malformations .. .. .													
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5								1	1		1	2
Motor Vehicle accidents .. .. .													
All other accidents .. .. .													
Suicide .. .. .	1							1					
Homicide and operations of war .. ..													



## (v) CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES 75 YEARS AND OVER

(Dartford Town)

	Total Persons	MALE					FEMALE				
		75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95+	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95+
All Causes .. .. .	138	25	23	9	1	1	20	27	23	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2			1			1				
Malignant neoplasm, bronchus ..	1		1								
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	2						2				
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	1							1			
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	18	5	1	2			3	4	2	1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	23	5	3				4	5	5	1	
Coronary disease, angina .. ..	22	7	5	1			3	4	2		
Hypertension with heart disease ..	3		1						1		1
Other heart disease .. .. .	28	6	4	2		1	4	4	5	2	
Other circulatory disease .. ..	8		3		1			1	3		
Pneumonia .. .. .	8	1	2	1				2	1		1
Bronchitis .. .. .	9	1	2	2			1		2	1	
Nephritis, nephrosis .. .. .	2								2		
Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	1						1				
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	9		1				1	5		2	
Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	1							1			

(Bexley Mental Hospital)

	Total Persons	MALE					FEMALE				
		75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95+	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95+
All Causes .. .. .	87	7	16	5	4		27	9	11	7	1
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	1						1				
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	3		2		1						
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7		1				6				
Coronary disease, angina .. ..	11	1	2		1		3		3		1
Hypertension with heart disease ..	2						1		1		
Other heart disease .. .. .	26	3	5	4	1		4	3	3	3	
Other circulatory disease .. ..	7						3	2	2		
Pneumonia .. .. .	23	1	4	1	1		9	2	1	4	
Bronchitis .. .. .	4	2						1	1		
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	1		1								
Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	1		1								
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	1							1			

## (vi) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS

## Dartford Town

MALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes .. .. .	196	6	35	-	4	5	-	85	2	23	10	24	2
Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Syphilitic disease .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	11	1	2	-	-	-	-	5	1	1	1	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	21	-	3	-	-	-	-	14	-	1	1	2	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	17	1	3	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	2	4	-
Coronary disease, angina ..	40	2	11	-	1	2	-	17	1	2	1	3	-
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease .. ..	21	1	4	-	-	-	-	9	-	2	1	4	-
Other circulatory disease ..	15	-	3	-	-	-	-	6	-	5	-	1	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	10	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	1	3	-
Bronchitis .. .. .	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis .. ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate ..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	16	-	1	-	-	1	-	7	-	3	-	3	1
Motor vehicle accidents ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
All other accidents .. ..	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide .. .. .	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-

FEMALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	VA	VB	X
All causes .. .. .	191	2	33	1	12	3	2	74	3	24	4	25	8
Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	7	-	1	-	3	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	22	1	6	1	1	2	-	7	-	2	-	2	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	31	-	7	-	2	-	1	12	-	2	1	5	1
Coronary disease, angina ..	20	-	4	-	-	-	-	10	-	2	-	3	1
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Other heart disease .. ..	23	-	3	-	1	-	-	8	2	2	-	4	3
Other circulatory disease ..	10	-	1	-	1	-	-	5	-	2	-	1	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	9	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-
Bronchitis .. .. .	9	-	1	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis .. ..	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation ..	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	28	-	3	-	-	1	-	13	-	6	-	4	1
Motor vehicle accidents ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents .. ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Suicide .. .. .	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-

## Bexley Mental Hospital

MALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes .. .. .	71	1	13	8	3	2	-	15	-	16	6	5	2
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
Coronary disease, angina .. ..	10	-	2	-	-	1	-	4	-	3	-	-	-
Hypertension with heart disease ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease .. .. .	16	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1
Other circulatory disease .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	16	1	3	-	2	1	-	5	-	-	3	-	1
Bronchitis .. .. .	7	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
Other disease of the respiratory system .. .. .	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-

FEMALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes .. .. .	105	1	14	-	3	4	-	44	-	17	2	9	11
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	1
Coronary disease, angina .. ..	14	-	3	-	1	-	-	6	-	1	1	1	1
Hypertension with heart disease ..	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Other heart disease .. .. .	18	1	3	-	-	1	-	7	-	3	-	1	2
Other circulatory disease .. ..	16	-	4	-	1	-	-	6	-	2	-	2	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	29	-	2	-	-	2	-	14	-	5	-	3	3
Bronchitis .. .. .	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Suicide .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

## (viii) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## (a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1956

Disease	Totals	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45+
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	21	-	3	2	13	2	1	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	52	7	14	12	19	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	24	2	1	1	2	-	-	4	14
Poliomyelitis - Paralytic .. ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Non-Paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery .. .. .	113	2	13	11	53	11	7	13	3
Food Poisoning .. .. .	23	1	1	-	-	-	1	8	12
Measles .. .. .	44	-	10	9	24	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

In addition to the above the following cases were notified from institutions:-

Dysentery - 8

Food Poisoning - 20

Puerperal Pyrexia - 10

The following non-notifiable diseases were reported from the schools:-

Impetigo	-	10	Rubella	-	27
Conjunctivitis	-	4	Influenza	-	4
Chicken Pox	-	54	German Measles	-	52
Mumps	-	111			

## (b) Distribution of Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia, 1956

### MEASLES

				St. Alban's	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
February	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
March	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	..	..	..	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
May	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
June	..	..	..	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
July	..	..	..	-	2	8	2	4	1	17
August	..	..	..	2	2	-	2	13	1	20
September	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
October	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FOR YEAR				2	6	8	5	21	2	44

### SCARLET FEVER

January	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
February	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
March	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	-	3	4
April	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
June	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
August	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	..	..	..	-	2	1	-	2	-	5
November	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
December	..	..	..	-	-	4	1	2	-	7
TOTAL FOR YEAR				-	2	7	3	6	3	21

### WHOOPING COUGH

January	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
February	..	..	..	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
March	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
April	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
June	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
July	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	4	1	5
August	..	..	..	-	1	8	-	8	-	17
September	..	..	..	-	-	2	-	8	-	10
October	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
November	..	..	..	-	1	-	-	5	2	8
December	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
TOTAL FOR YEAR				1	2	10	2	31	6	52



# PNEUMONIA

				St. Alban's	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
February	..	..	..	1	1	-	-	4	1	7
March	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	..	..	..	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
May	..	..	..	-	-	1	1	3	1	6
June	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
August	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
November	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	..	..	..	-	-	-	2	3	2	7
TOTAL FOR YEAR				1	2	1	3	13	4	24

## (c) Tuberculosis

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:-

					New Cases				Deaths			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	..	..	..	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	..	..	..	..	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	..	..	..	..	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	..	..	..	..	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	..	..	..	..	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	..	..	..	..	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	..	..	..	..	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	..	..	..	..	8	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS					33	10	1	1	2	-	-	-

Eleven of the 45 cases of tuberculosis notified during 1956 and 2 cases notified previous to that year were removed to hospital or sanatorium for treatment.

The following is a statement of the number of cases on the register at the beginning and end of the year:-

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on register at end of 1955	277	204	24	36	541
Number on register at end of 1956	297	209	27	33	566

Number of children under 15 years of age vaccinated with B.C.G. - 80

# (ix) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

From figures supplied by the County Medical Officer the following are derived:-

## INOCULATIONS DONE EACH YEAR

	Age at 31st December	Primary Inoculations done in the year	Re-inforcing Inoculations done in the year
1956	0 - 4 years	486	46
	5 - 14 years	69	707
1955	0 - 4 years	384	42
	5 - 14 years	53	412
1954	0 - 4 years	501	66
	5 - 14 years	38	347
1953	0 - 4 years	397	63
	5 - 14 years	46	346
1952	0 - 4 years	542	82
	5 - 14 years	64	493
1951	0 - 4 years	454	70
	5 - 14 years	106	545

## PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH EFFECTIVE IMMUNITY

Immunisation is effective for about five years and then requires to be re-inforced.  
Hence:-

December 31st	Age Group	Children immunised at any time in their life	Children immunised in the last 5 years	Population Census 1951	Percentage children immune
1956	0 - 4 years	1,800	1,800)		53%)
	5 - 14 years	4,690	2,655)		49%) 51%
1955	0 - 4 years	1,769	1,769)		52%)
	5 - 14 years	4,352	2,642)	3,414*	48%) 50%
1954	0 - 4 years	1,882	1,882)	5,416	55%)
	5 - 14 years	3,975	2,517	8,830	46%) 50%
1953	0 - 4 years	1,906	1,906)		56%)
	5 - 14 years	4,947	3,335)		62%) 59%

\* Owing to lower birth rates population of age group 0 - 4 years probably less now, and, therefore, percentages are more than 55% and 56%.

## INFANT IMMUNISATION RATE

Percentage of those born in a given year who were immunised in that year of the next:

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year immunised	Number immunised	%	Total	%
1956	632	1956	86	14	?	?
		1957	?	?		
1955	581	1955	55	9	369	64
		1956	314	53		
1954	579	1954	69	12	369	64
		1955	300	52		
1953	591	1953	53	9	433	73
		1954	380	64		
1952	533	1952	84	16	388	73
		1953	304	57		
1951	562	1951	49	9	424	75
		1952	375	66		

Immunisation by age at date of immunisation:

	Number of live births	Number under 1 year of age immunised	Percentage of births of previous year
1956	632	291	46
1955	581	256	44
1954	579	342	58
1953	591	?	?



# (x) SMALLPOX VACCINATION

## NUMBERS VACCINATED

	Age at December 31st		
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14
1956			
Vaccinated	251	145	13
Revaccinated	-	1	8
1955			
Vaccinated	195	124	17
Revaccinated	-	1	4
1954			
Vaccinated	224	159	15
Revaccinated	-	1	27
1953			
Vaccinated	229	110	4
Revaccinated	-	3	10
1952			
Vaccinated	250	125	12
Revaccinated	-	3	12
1951			
Vaccinated	255	140	46
Revaccinated	-	3	21

## INFANT VACCINATION RATE

Percentage of those born in a given year who were vaccinated in that year or the next

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year vaccinated	Number vaccinated	%	Total	%
1956	632	1956	251	40	?	?
		1957	?	?		
1955	581	1955	195	33	334	57
		1956	139	24		
1954	579	1954	224	39	340	58
		1955	116	20		
1953	591	1953	229	39	380	64
		1954	151	25		
1952	533	1952	250	47	350	66
		1953	100	19		

## VACCINATION BY AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION

	Number of live births	Number vaccinated by age at date of vaccination			Percentage of births of those vaccinated under one year
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	
1956	632	381	14	15	60%
1955	581	309	12	16	53%
1954	579	369	13	5	64%
1953	591	326	15	1	55%
1952	533	359	21	10	67%

The detailed analysis of 1956 vaccinations is as follows:-

Age Group	Vaccinated		Revaccinated	
	Private Doctors	Clinics	Private Doctors	Clinics
Under 1	183	201	-	-
1 - 4 years	8	6	1	-
5 - 14 years	14	1	11	-
Total under 15	205	208	12	-

# ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, which includes a summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during 1956.

## INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

### Complaints and Routine Visits in Connection with Nuisances

The following is a summary of the complaints entered in the Complaint Book during the year:-

Complaints re accumulations, etc. .. .. .	9
Complaints re food .. .. .	24
Choked Drains (cleared by Public Health Department)..	301
Choked Drains (cleared by Owners) .. .. .	15
Matters requiring execution of works of repair ..	167
Complaints re dustbins .. .. .	85
Overcrowding .. .. .	2
Bugs .. .. .	9
Woodworm .. .. .	8
Wasps .. .. .	8
Fleas .. .. .	2
Other Insects .. .. .	2
Snakes .. .. .	3
Miscellaneous .. .. .	56
Complaints of matters where no nuisance was found ..	49
	<hr/>
	740

### DUSTBINS

The policy of the Council in the event of no dustbin being provided by either owner or occupier, is to provide a bin and recover a sum of 5s. 0d. with the rates on the 1st April. One hundred and ten new bins were supplied during the year (initial supply) and ten were supplied as replacements for bins provided previously by the Council.

### ERADICATION OF VERMIN

During the course of the year 18 premises were treated for bugs, 3 for woodworm, 8 for wasps and three for fleas. A liquid spray containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum is used for normal disinfection. Wasps nests are treated with Magnesium Cyanide. A charge of 5s. 0d. is made in respect of treatment for wasps, woodworm, ants, etc.

# TABLE OF NUISANCES REMEDIED AND REPAIRS EFFECTED

Accumulation of refuse or manure removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Animals - Nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Brickwork (a) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) repointed or rendered	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Ceilings (a) cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(b) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Cesspools (a) emptied	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(b) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Coppers repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Doors - frames or fittings repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Drains (a) cleared by service of notice	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
(b) cleared by Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	301
(c) reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
(d) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
(e) gully fenders repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
(f) inspection chambers provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(g) inspection chambers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
(h) vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fireplaces (a) grates provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b) other repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Floors (a) floorboards repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
(b) floor joists repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(c) sub floor ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(d) solid floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Roofs (a) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
(b) stripped and re-roofed	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(c) eaves gutters repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
(d) down pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Sinks (a) sinks renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(b) sink waste pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Stairs (a) new treads or risers	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b) handrails provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Walls (a) cleansed and re-decorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(b) plaster repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
(c) dampness abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Water supply (a) taps, pipes, etc. repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
(b) water storage tanks repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Windows (a) frames, sashes or casements repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
(b) glazing	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(c) sashcords, etc. repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
W.C.'s (a) flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
(b) W.C. pans renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
(c) W.C. seats repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Yard Paving (a) repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) re drained	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous defects not included above	..	..	..	..	..	..	55

## DRAINAGE WORK

Number of drains tested by water	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Other tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
							59

In all, 217 visits were made to drainage works for the purpose of drain testing or supervision.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits and investigations by Public Health Inspectors	..	..	1507
Premises disinfected (tuberculosis)	..	..	18
Premises disinfected (all other infections)	..	..	-
Library books disinfected	..	..	43

The high figure in relation to visits and investigations of infectious diseases

arose from an outbreak of sonne dysentery associated largely with the Temple Hill Neighbourhood Unit and the Primary School at Temple Hill. For a period of some five or six weeks, time equivalent to half of an Inspector's work-day each day, was devoted to visits of investigation or the collection of stool specimens.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Thirty six thirty-minute observations of factory chimneys were made during the year and of this number the model byelaw limit of two minutes black smoke in any continuous period of thirty minutes was exceeded on six occasions.

Observations on atmospheric pollution by the use of standard deposit gauges and lead peroxide gauges are made at three sites in the Borough. Volumetric apparatus for the daily measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide was brought into operation in November. Details in connection with the observations and results of analyses, together with those in respect of adjacent local authority areas, will be found in the Annual Report of the Thames-side Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

A site at Stonehill Woods, Joydens Wood, is licensed for twenty-four chalet type bungalows and Town Planning approval has been given for the siting of ten trailer-type caravans upon this site. Ten such caravans have been granted individual licences and are being used for residential purposes.

Changes in the occupants of these residential caravans or caravan sites occur at fairly frequent intervals.

One horse drawn caravan has been granted an individual licence to stand on land at Bignores Farm, Darenth Road, and Town Planning approval has been granted for a limited period.

#### OVERCROWDING

There have been two complaints only of overcrowding during the year. One of the premises concerned was not statutorily overcrowded.

#### SWIMMING BATHS

The open air swimming bath in Burnham Road, which is under the administrative control of the Borough Surveyor, has a continuous heating and chlorination plant, the water being chlorinated so as to give a residual chlorine figure of 0.5 ppm. at the inlet.

One sample from the shallow end was reported as unsatisfactory due to the presence of 17 coliform bacilli per 100 ml and one with 3 coliform bacilli per 100 ml as suspicious. All other samples were satisfactory.

The swimming bath at the Dartford College of Physical Education is open during the summer months for certain school children and samples of the water were also submitted for bacteriological examination.

One sample from the deep end showed the presence of 1 coliform bacillus per 100 ml and 1 faecal coliform bacillus per 100 ml and was reported as unsatisfactory. All other samples were reported to be satisfactory.

#### HOUSING ACT

Information in connection with housing has already been provided in the Quarterly



Briefly summarised this shows the demolition of 24 houses, the closing of 2, and the repair of 174.

#### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year. Certificates were issued in each case. One was subsequently revoked, the premises having been put into good repair.

Of 18 Certificates granted since the date of commencement of the Act, 12 were still in operation at the end of the year.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Improvement Grants have been granted in respect of 4 properties, all of which are owner-occupied premises. No applications were refused during the year, but the consideration of grants was held in abeyance for six months owing to financial considerations.

#### LABORATORY SERVICES

The laboratory examinations were carried out at the Public Health and County Analyst's Laboratories at Maidstone and also at the Pathological Laboratories of the Dartford Group of Hospitals. The following specimens were submitted for examination:-

Water (Bacteriological)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Water (Chemical)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Milk (Bacteriological)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Food and Drug Samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140
Ice Cream (Biochemical)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Food for infection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Faeces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,481

#### ICE CREAM

Premises used for the sale of Ice Cream

Number of Dealers registered	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Number of Manufacturers registered	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of samples taken for biochemical examinations	..	..	..	..	..	..	23

Ice cream manufacture has taken place at only two premises during the year, the "hot mix" method being used at one of the premises and the "cold mix" at the other.

Results of examinations are set out below:-

	Hot Mix		Cold Mix
	Manufactured inside District	Manufactured outside District	Manufactured inside District
Grade I	6	4	3
Grade II	2	4	2
Grade III	-	-	2
Grade IV	-	-	-

Eighteen samples of ice cream and two of butter ice cream, were submitted to the County Analyst for examination. Six samples of ice cream from four sources, manufactured outside the district, had average fat and total solids contents of 12.3% and 38.9% respectively. Seven samples of "cold mix" ice cream manufactured within the district had figures of 9.3% and 31.8%, whilst five samples of "hot mix" ice cream manufactured within the district had average figures of 5.1% and 29.4%. The butter ice cream had average fat contents (all butter fat) of 15.5% and total solids 44.6%.

## MILK - LICENCES ETC

The following are details in connection with licences issued and premises in use in the area:-

Number of Dairies (excluding dairy farms) .. .. .	2
Number of registered distributors with premises in the Borough (including 19 distributors selling sterilized milk only) ..	22
Number of registered distributors with premises outside the Borough (including 2 selling sterilized milk only) .. .. .	8
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealer's Licences issued .. .. .	11
Tuberculin Tested Milk Supplementary Licences issued .. .. .	12
Pasteurised Milk Dealer's Licences issued .. .. .	11
Pasteurised Milk Supplementary Licences issued .. .. .	12
Sterilized Milk Dealers Licences issued .. .. .	28
Sterilized Milk Supplementary Licences issued .. .. .	13

## SAMPLES

During the year 14 samples of Pasteurised Milk, 4 samples of Tuberculin tested Milk (Pasteurised), 7 samples of Channel Island Milk (Pasteurised) and 5 of Sterilized Milk were submitted to the County Analyst for routine examination.

With the exception of one sample of Pasteurised Milk which failed to pass the methylene blue test, all samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is no licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough, but the following figures are in respect of inspection of animals at a large hospital within the Council's area:-

### CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	2	6	19	None	492	None
Number inspected	2	6	19	None	492	None
<p>Of the above in no case was a whole carcase condemned.</p> <p>For diseases other than tuberculosis parts of 14 pigs carcasses, representing 2.8% were condemned.</p> <p>Parts of 4 pigs carcasses, representing 0.8% were condemned on account of tuberculosis.</p> <p>No part of any bovine carcase was condemned and no cysticerci were found.</p>						

## OTHER INSPECTIONS

Apart from the figures included in other sections of the report, the following visits were made during the year:-

Visits to:-

Fruit Pickers Huts .. .. .	3
Offensive Trades .. .. .	5
Public Conveniences at Inns .. .. .	107
Other Public Conveniences .. .. .	58
Slipper Baths .. .. .	14
Stables, Piggeries, etc. .. .. .	65
Tents, Vans and Sheds .. .. .	127
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress ..	1,841
Miscellaneous visits .. .. .	604

In all, a total of 8,967 visits or inspections were made during the year.

## PUBLIC BATHS

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND SLIPPER BATHS

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following, which are under the administrative control of the Chief Public Health Inspector:-

Public Conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes on The Brent.

Public Conveniences for both sexes in Market Street.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1954 and 1955:-

	1954	1955	1956
Men	13,252	13,414	14,144
Boys	540	674	686
Women	3,926	3,780	3,488
Girls	233	275	258
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,951</b>	<b>18,143</b>	<b>18,576</b>

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, ETC.

### FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

The following table shows the number of food premises of various types in the Council's area and the number of visits of inspection or re-inspection paid to such premises during the year. All premises in which food is prepared or stored for sale for human consumption are inspected at least twice in every year. Some are inspected as a routine measure three times a year and some quarterly. The frequency of inspection varies according to the type of business carried on and the manner in which the particular business is conducted.

Where more than one trade or business is carried on in a particular shop, e.g. grocers who also sell ice-cream, or grocers who also sell a small amount of greengrocery, the premises are classified according to the predominant trade and one inspection entry



only is made in connection with visits to such multi-purpose shops:-

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses .. .. .	8	102
Butchers .. .. .	26	274
Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens, etc.	69	522
Confectioners .. .. .	50	135
* Dairies .. .. .	2	3
Fish Friers .. .. .	11	95
Fishmongers (not friers) .. ..	3	54
Greengrocers .. .. .	28	215
Grocers .. .. .	75	632
Ice Cream premises (including Manu- facturers) .. .. .	96 †	141
Licensed Premises (non-catering) ..	44	94
Other Food Premises .. .. .	2	10
Knackers Yards .. .. .	1	16
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	1	53

\* Although two premises are registered as dairies, one only is used as such and this only on rare occasions.

† This figure represents the number of premises registered most of which are grocers or confectioners and inspections of which are recorded under those headings.

#### REGISTERED PREMISES

In accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the following table indicates the number of premises registered and used for:-

Sausage Making and Cooked Meats ..	29
Curing and Preservation of Fish ..	4
Ice Cream Manufacture and Sale ..	2
Ice Cream Storage and Sale ..	94

Visits to these premises are included in the figures tabulated above.

As a result of the foregoing inspections, 282 Notices were served during the year and 189 Notices were complied with. The following table sets out the defects remedied:-

#### Premises and Equipment

1.	Disrepair of walls and ceilings of food rooms .. .. .	10
2.	Unclean walls and ceilings of food rooms .. .. .	32
3.	Disrepair of floors or floor coverings of food rooms .. ..	2
4.	Unclean condition of floors of food rooms .. .. .	10
5.	Inadequate lighting .. .. .	5
6.	Inadequate ventilation .. .. .	7
7.	Disrepair of equipment .. .. .	-
8.	Unclean equipment .. .. .	-
9.	Inadequate sinks or other facilities for cleansing equipment:-	
	* (a) New sinks provided .. .. .	3
	* (b) Polythene bowls provided .. .. .	37
10.	Inadequate water supplies for sinks .. .. .	6
11.	Inadequate wash-hand basins .. .. .	76
12.	Inadequate water supply to wash-hand basins .. .. .	62

#### Personnel and Clothing

13.	Unclean personnel .. .. .	1
14.	Unclean clothing .. .. .	3
15.	Inadequate accommodation for outdoor clothing .. .. .	37



16.	Inadequate provision of dressings, antiseptics, etc.	.. ..	87
17.	Inadequate provision of soap, nailbrushes and towels	.. ..	64
18.	Absence of Notice re Washing of Hands	.. ..	10

#### Protection of Food from risk of contamination

19.	Surfaces, having contact with food, constructed of unsuitable materials	.. ..	113
20.	Animals likely to contaminate food in food rooms	.. ..	1
21.	Food not covered against risk of contamination	.. ..	10
22.	Personnel smoking in food preparation rooms	.. ..	3

#### Sanitary Accommodation

23.	Disrepair	.. ..	-
24.	Unclean condition	.. ..	9
25.	Communicating directly with premises used for cleansing of food equipment	.. ..	2

#### Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous defects not included above	.. ..	32
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\* There are many small house-shops in the district which sell a very small quantity of open food and which are provided with sinks which have always been used for hand washing and for the washing of the very limited amount of food equipment, e.g. one scale pan or perhaps one scale pan and one knife. In such cases, particularly where space for the installation of a wash-hand basin has been very limited, the shopkeeper has been asked to provide a polythene bowl to be set on one side for the washing of the small amount of equipment and to continue to use the sink for hand washing purposes.

The supply of food hygiene posters to various classes of catering establishments has been continued during the year.

#### FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

During the year 140 samples were obtained (1 formal and 139 informal). The following table shows the results of the analyses of these samples:-

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Inferior	Adulterated
Almond Essence		1	1		
Almonds, Ground		1	1		
Beef Suet		1	1		
Bread		1		1	
Butter		2	2		
Castor oil, B.P.		2	2		
Cod Liver Oil, B.P.		1	1		
Coffee		1	1		
Cream		2	2		
Curry Powder		2	2		
Dried Fruits:-					
Apricots	1	3	1	1	2
Cherries, Glace		1	1		
Currants		2	2		
Fish Pastes:-					
Salmon		1	1		
Salmon and Shrimp		1	1		
Flour, confectionery:-					
Cake, Battenburg, rich in Sugar and Egg. Marzipan contains pure almond.		1		1	
Cake, Cherry Genoa (contains butter)		2		2	
Cakes, Cream		1		1	
Cakes, Eccles		5	4	1	
Cake, Madeira		1	1		

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Inferior	Adulterated
Flour, Self Raising .. .. .	-	2	2	-	-
Glycerine, B.P. .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Ginger, ground .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Ice Cream .. .. .	-	18	16	2	-
Ice Cream - Butter ice cream .. .. .	-	2	2	-	-
Jams and similar preserves:-					
Lemon Curd .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Orange Curd .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Raspberry Jam .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Strawberry Jam .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Jelly crystals .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Lard .. .. .	-	2	2	-	-
Lemonade Powder .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Margarine .. .. .	-	2	2	-	-
Marzipan .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Milk .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Milk, Channel Island (Pasteurised) .. .. .	-	7	7	-	-
Milk, Pasteurised .. .. .	-	14	14	-	-
Milk, Sterilised .. .. .	-	5	5	-	-
Milk, T.T. (Pasteurised) .. .. .	-	4	4	-	-
Mineral Waters:-					
Ginger Beer .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Lemonade .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Orange Squash .. .. .	-	1	-	-	1
Sparkling Orange .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Mustard .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Oranges .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Paraffin - Liquid B.P. .. .. .	-	2	2	-	-
Peach Pulp .. .. .	-	2	2	-	-
Pepper, White .. .. .	-	3	3	-	-
Rice, creamed .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Sauces, etc. :-					
Tomato ketchup .. .. .	-	2	2	-	-
Sardines in tomato sauce .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Sausages - pork .. .. .	-	11	6	5	-
Sausage rolls .. .. .	-	5	5	-	-
Sugar confectionery:-					
Butterkist .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Buttermints .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Butterscotch .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Chocolate-full cream milk .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
Vegetable margarine .. .. .	-	3	1	2	-
Vinegar, malt .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>

The following are details in connection with the samples in the foregoing table which were reported as either inferior or adulterated:-

**Bread:** (Informal) A complaint was made that a loaf of bread tasted sandy. It was found to contain .05% sand and siliceous material. Investigations at the bakery and mills revealed no obvious source of contamination and no other complaints were received.

**Cream Cake:** (Informal) A cake filled with synthetic cream was submitted for analysis and was found to contain one hair resembling a human hair. The matter was referred to the Public Health Department of the local authority in whose area the cake was made.

**Cashewnutta:** (Informal) This vegetable fat product was found to have an unpleasant taste due to oxidative rancidity. The matter was taken up with the retailer and arrangements made for a reduced stock to be held.

Eccles Cake: (Informal) The cake was described as inferior as it was found that the fruit content consisted only of a few pieces of currants. The matter of the fruit content of "Eccles Cake" was taken up in the correspondence columns of the baking trade Press.

Genoa Cherry Cake: (Informal) The total fat content was 11.3% including (contains butter) butter 2.5%. This matter was taken up with the manufacturers.

Orange Squash: (Informal) The sample submitted was found to be fermenting and unfit for use.

Dried Apricots: (Informal) Several samples of dried apricots from different sources were classified as inferior due to the presence of insects, insect fragments and dirt. The matter was taken up in correspondence with the packers and instructions were received from the local authority, in one instance, authorising the institution of proceedings. The case had not been heard at the end of the year.

Pork Sausage: (Informal) Samples of pork sausage were found to be slightly deficient in meat content and improvements were made as a result of correspondence with the manufacturers.

Ice Cream: (Informal) Two samples of ice cream were deficient in fat, the fat content being only 4%. Representations to the manufacturer resulted in the manufacture of ice cream of a satisfactory fat content.

#### UN SOUND FOOD

The total quantity of unsound food dealt with during the year was 15 cwts. 2 qrs. 27 lbs. and 10 ozs. Details of the foods surrendered are tabulated below:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
<b>FISH</b>					
Dogfish			1	8	4
Skate			2	7	
<b>MEAT, POULTRY, ETC</b>					
Beef, imported				16	
Pork		2		6	
Pig's pluck				12	
Sheeps liver				10	
Lambs liver				3	8
Pigs liver				18	8
Ox liver			1	14	10
Pigs Head			2	12	
Pork Sausage				24	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GROCERIES</b>					
Cereals				2	
Cheese (processed)				1	4
Confectionery:					
Chocolate Swiss Rolls				5	4
Angel Cake				20	
Walnut Gateaux				8	4
Dripping				8	8
Lard					8
Margarine				2	8
Self Raising Flour				1	8

## TINNED GOODS

Fish 44 tins, Fruit 243 tins, )					
Jam 3 tins, Meat 174 tins, )					
Milk 16 tins, Soup 6 tins, )					
Vegetables 179 tins )	-	10	2	14	-
TOTAL	-	15	2	27	10

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a summary of inspections carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act:-

## (1) INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	73	5	None
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	141	338	28	None
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	21	43	7	None
	176	454	40	None

## (2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	12	11	None	None	None
Overcrowding (S. 2)	None	None	None	None	None
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	None	None	None	None	None
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	None	None	None	None	None
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	None	None	None	None	None
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	3	None	None	None
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	21	None	None	None
(c) Not separate for sexes	None	None	None	None	None
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	26	20	None	None	None
	62	55	None	None	None



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Staff shortages again resulted in only a very small amount of time being devoted to survey of domestic premises during the year.

Details of the number of complaints received compared with those in previous years are set out below:-

	1954	1955	1956
Number of complaints received and dealt with	210	147	160
Number of premises treated .. .. .	249	206	161
Notices served .. .. .	7	6	Nil
Notices complied with .. .. .	7	6	Nil

Many of the complaints related to infestations by mice.

Treatment of the sewers was carried out. Two years had elapsed since the previous treatment. The number of manholes at which takes of bait were recorded was substantially the same. This result only serves to emphasise the view that has previously been expressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that in areas in which the sewers are in a reasonably sound condition the regular treatment twice per annum does not produce any notable reduction in surface infestations and is a wasteful and time consuming procedure.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

Set out below are details of the number of inspections made and notices served and complied with during the year:-

Number of inspections made ..	238
Notices served .. .	11
Notices complied with ..	30

Analysis of Notices complied with in 1956:-

Abstracts .. .	17
Sanitary accommodation defective .. .	5
Sanitary accommodation insufficient .. .	"
Inadequate temperature .. .	6
Half-day or Sunday closing offences .. .	4
Offences relating to intervals for meals, etc. .. .	"
Inadequate washing facilities .. .	"
No seats for female assistants .. .	2

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings were instituted in respect of a contravention of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 arising out of the sale of a loaf of bread containing a portion of a cigarette. A fine of £10 and £5. 5. 0d. costs was imposed.

I am, Sir. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. IDDISON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

